see the point that valuable land in Delhi has been made available even for affluent sections at concessional rates. There is a need for change in that approach. Let me think over and come back to you.

* 267. [The questioner (Prof. R.B.S. Verma) was absent. For answer *vide* page 30 *infra*.]

*268. [The questioner (Shri C. Rama Chandraiah) was absent. For answer *vide* page 33 *infra*.]

Ban on recruitment of Safai Karamcharis

*269. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any recommendaitons of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis to lift the blanket ban imposed on recruitment of the Safai karamcharis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other recommendations made by the above commission; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In its three-monthly progress report submitted in March, 2005, the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis has recommended that blanket ban should be lifted on the recruitment of Safai Karamcharis

(c) Some of the major recommendations made by the Commission in its three-monthly progress report are: contract system for engagement of Safai Karamcharis should be abolished; Safai Karamcharis should be covered under the Labour Act; fresh survey of scavengers should be conducted; safety equipments should be made mandatory for Safai karamcharis; and basic amenities like drinking water, electricity, etc. should be provided to Bastis of Safai Karamcharis.

(d) As regards (b) above, there is no blanket ban on recruitment of Safai Karamcharis. The State Governments have been requested by Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation to conduct fresh survey. The

matter regarding safety equipments has been taken up with Ministry of Urban Development and Chief Secretaries of all State Governments/ UT Administrations. All Chief Ministers have also been addressed in the matter. In regard to other recommendations, Ministries/ Departments concerned and Chief Secretaries of the State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to take necessary action.

DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Sir, in its tri-monthly progress Report submitted in March, 2005, the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis has recommended that blanket ban should be lifted on the recruitment of Safai Karamcharis. What has happened to that recommendation?

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Sir, the Report sent by the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis in march, 2005, had recommended that blanket ban should be lifted on the recruitment of Safai Karamcharis. I want to clarify to the hon. Member, through you, that there is no blanket ban on the recruitment of Safai Karamcharis.

DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Sir, some of the major recommendations made by the Commission in its tri-monthly progress Report are: Contract system for engagement of Safai Karamcharis should be abolished; Safai Karamcharis should be covered under the Labour Act; fresh surve of scavengers should be conducted; safety equipments should be made mandatory for Safai Karamcharis; and, basic amenities like drinking water, electricity, etc., should be provided to Bastis of Safai Karamcharis. I would like to know what is the progress on these.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Sir, on these major recommendations, I have already written to all the hon. Chief Ministers of all the States. I have written to them to abolish the contract system. I have written to the Labour Ministry, to the DoPT, requesting them to bring Safai Karamcharis under the purview of the Labour Act. I have taken up the issue with the Ministry of Labour for safety equipment and civic amenities. We have also written to all the concerned ministries. We have written to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of HRD. We have also written to the RGI. And, for fresh survey, we have taken up the matter with the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation.

KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Sir, through you, I would like to remind that during Mahatma Gandhi's time, in every ashram, he used to ask every member of the ashram to do scavenging work. He wanted that a particular community or caste as Scavengers should be abolished. Safai Karamcharis

should be given other employment and that is why he used to say and made people like all of us to do the scavenging work. I have also done scavenging work in the ashram. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps the Ministry are taking to liberate scavengers from this job and what kind of alternative employment is being given to them.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Sir, the hon. Member has made a reference to Mahatma Gandhi. Now-a-days, we do not use the word. We use the work 'Balmiki.' But, at that time, it was called Bhangi Mukti Andolan. It was a very great revolutionary movement to whcih the hon. Member referred. I would like to say that this has already been announced by the hon. Prime Minister and we are making all efforts to ensure that by 2007 we are able to completely eradicate the manual scavenging and that we will be able to do it only if we are able to rehabilitate, give alternative employment to all the scavengers who are still doing this work. So, we have, on the one hand, an action plan for complete eradication of scavenging; on the other hand, we have a scheme, the NSLRS, for liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers, through which we are giving them micro loans, we are giving them other alternative jobs so that they can be rehabilitated in other works.

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: सर, मैंने मंत्री जी के जवाब को सुना और मैं यह समझती हूं कि इससे ज्यादा अन्याय दलितों के प्रति जो इनके जवाब में स्पष्ट है, उन्होंने कहा सैक्शन (सी) में कि ये तमाम मेजर रिकमंडेशन्स हुई हैं, लेकिन जब पूछा गया कि इसके बारे में क्या कदम उठाये हैं, इनका जवाब यह था कि हमने सबको चिट्ठी दे दी हैं सर, मैं यह पूछना चाहती हूं कि अभी इसी वक्त सेंट्रल मिनिस्ट्री के जितने दफतर हैं, तमाम स्टेट्स की बात छोड़िये, अगर उस मंत्रालय का यह मानना है कि सिफारिशें सही हैं, तो क्या सेंट्रल मिनिस्ट्री का जो तमाम दलितों को कांट्रेक्ट लेबर पर सफाई कर्मचारी के रूप में रखा जा रहा है, उनकी कोई सर्विस कंडीशन्स नहीं हैं, उनकी कोई सर्विस सेक्योरिटी कंडीशन्स नहीं हैं और केवल यह दलितों के साथ होगा। सर, मैं पूछना चाहती हूं कि क्या केबिनेट में इस कमीशन की रेकमंडेशन्स रखी गई हैं या केबिनेट में इस पर बहस हुई है और क्या फैसला हुआ है कि कम से कम सेंट्रल मिनिस्ट्रीज़ में यह कांट्रेक्ट लेबर सिस्टम समाप्त किया जाये।

श्रीमती मीरा कुमार: सर, सम्मानित सदस्या ने यह बहुत अच्छा प्रश्न पूछा है। मैं उनकी व्यथा को समझती हूं और वह हम सब की व्यथा है। मैं उन्हें यह बताना चाहती हूं कि जहां तक यह ठेके पर कार्य देने का सवाल है, एक तो वे हैं, जो सफाई कर्मचारी हैं और एक वे हैं, जो अपने ही हाथ से मनुष्य का मैला ढोने का काम करते हैं, उनको जो ठेके पर रखा जा रहा है, उनके बारे में यह प्रश्न है। सफाई कर्मचारी अलग कैटेगरी में आते हैं। इसके संबंध में, हम लोग बहुत तत्परता से लगे हुए हैं क्योंकि इसमें श्रम मंत्रालय की अहम भूमिका है और उनसे हम निरन्तर सम्पर्क में हैं कि इस टेके के कार्य पर जल्दी से जल्दी उनका निर्णय हो और उनकी कार्यवाही हो।

श्री एस॰एस॰ अहलुवालिया: उपसभापति, महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदया से जानना चाहूंगा कि जो सुलभ शौचालय हैं, जहां पर लोगों को, scavengers को इन्वाल्व किया जा सकता है, उनको कांट्रेक्ट दिये जा सकते हैं, सारे भारत में सुलभ शौचालय दिये जा रहे हैं, क्या आपने कोई सर्वे किया है? ...(व्यवधान)... क्या आपने सारे भारत में सुलभ शौचालय का सर्वे किया है कि ये दलितों को दिये गये हैं या अन्य लोगों को दिये गये हैं? इसके बारे में बताने की कृपा करें।

श्रीमती मीरा कुमार: सर, सुलभ शौचालय के बारे में जो माननीय सदस्य ने प्रश्न किया है, उसके बारे में अगर ये मुझे अलग से सूचना दे देंगे, तो हम पूरी जानकारी इकट्ठी करके आपको दे देंगे।

श्री धर्मपाल सभ्रवाल : उपसभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने अपने जबाब में सफाई कर्मचारियों को दो भागों में बांट दिया है। मैं इनसे यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि कारपोरेशन में जो नाली को साफ करने का काम करते हैं और जो सड़क को साफ करते हैं, तो इन दोनों में क्या अंतर है?

सफाई कर्मचारियों के लिए पहले कभी दो कैटेगरी नहीं होती थीं। एक ही वर्ग था, जो इस काम को करता था और उसकी सोशल सेक्यारिटी थी, उसका प्रोविडेंट फंड काटा जाता था, उसको पेंशन दी जाती थी।

[श्री सभापति पीठासीन हुए]

लेकिन यह बहुत अन्याय है कि जो लोग दलितों से भी दलित हैं, उनके साथ ऐसा अन्याय हो रहा है। मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि सफाई कर्मचारियों, चाहे वे नाली को साफ करते हैं, चाहे वे झाड़ू से दफ्तर को साफ करते हैं, क्या आप उनके लिए एक जैसा नियम बनाएंगे?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Video Coverage of Cricket Matches

†*264. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan sells video coverage of cricket matches during its telecast to various news channels;

(b) if so, the amount received by Government on this account;

(c) whether some channels are yet to pay this amount to Government; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.